

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Tabulæ in the Stellate Venations of Stromatopora.*

By H. J. CARTER, F.R.S. &c.

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—On the 26th ult., under the kind guidance of my friend Mr. Champernowne, F.G.S., of Dartington Hall, near Totnes, I again went to “Pit-Park Quarry,” which is in the “Devonian Limestone” close by, where we found a block of that species of *Stromatopora*, which, from its large venation, appears to me to have been undescribed; and on clearing it a piece split off, which exposed a plane covered with its stellate venations, in which all the calcite usually filling them in the fossilized condition had been removed, so that they, in fact, presented the cœnenchyma just minus the soft parts or cœnosarc which originally filled them.

On examining these more closely after my return to this place, I found that the larger portions of the branches of the stellate venations were traversed by *tabulæ*.

Thus at once it was proved that the *Stromatopora* could not have been sponges, and that they were *Tabulate corals*, like those in this respect in the same bed, in which the latter, in great abundance, are overgrown and enclosed by *Stromatopora* throughout, so as once to have formed one great reef-mass now decomposing into its original elements.

In a future communication I hope to describe and illustrate this fact in connexion with the species of *Stromatopora* wherein it was discovered.

I am yours faithfully,

HENRY J. CARTER.

Budleigh-Salterton,  
Aug. 7, 1880.

*On the Oviposition of Pleurodeles Waltlii.*

By M. L. VAILLANT.

We have lately obtained in the menagerie of the Museum the reproduction of a well-known Urodelous Batrachian, *Pleurodeles Waltlii*, Michaelis, which, although belonging to the European fauna, had not previously been investigated in this particular.

In the month of May 1879 M. Desguez and I observed an alteration in the form of the tail in the males of these animals; the membranous crests, both superior and inferior, were visibly more developed. A little later we witnessed the actions preparatory to copulation. These are of the most singular kind, and, while reminding us of what is known of different Batrachians of the same group, present peculiarities which it is important to indicate.

The male places himself beneath the female, in such a way that the upper part of his head answers to the gular region of the latter. He then clasps the anterior limbs of his consort by raising his own; his foot passes successively behind, outside, and in front of the arm of the other individual; and finally the digits are inserted into the